/35/
C 712 were built for defense. At such places as Huang-lo-chai and Shui-ta-t'ien in the sub-prefecture large paos were erected. In thinly populated and topographically restricted areas, t'uns were built, which communicated with each other for mutual defense. A t'un is built according to the requirements of the place, varying from several chang to more than ten chang in width, and from ten to 30 chang in length. The foundation of a t'un is laid with two or three ch'ih of rough stones, on which are added two layers of bricks about four or five ch'ih in height; and then the crenulated wall with apertures for observation and firing guns is put. Each t'un accommodates a few dozen men. Animals and grains are also sheltered in it." There C 361 712 are two kinds of paos, the stone and the earth paos. A small pao is oval in shape, a street runs through the center, bordered by residential dwellings, with two pao gates at the two ends of the street. A big pao is round in shape with three or four pao gates (Illus. 9), and the streets within are often in the shape of a cross.

C [342] Besides the paos and the t'uns in the Miao area there are many stone houses /tiao/. Formerly in the areas around these stone houses t'un soldiers were posted to keep watch. Today, such areas have become little settlements, as in Illus. 10. These are villages near the stone houses. The Chinese also settled at important communication points leading to bridges. C [491 443] They even built houses on bridges, forming bridge streets, such as shown in Illus. 11. Some markets also have appeared at ferry points along the rivers. Chinese settlements are distributed mostly along communication lines and garrison points so that in case of alarm they can come to each other's aid.

M 361 [712 363] The Miao settlement is called "chai" (Illus. 12, 13), built generally against a mountainside or along a river, without any uniform appearance. The chai wall is made of earth or stone slabs, and there is no definite number of gates. The streets of a chai zigzag up and down, with tiny alleys on both sides. In each alley there are a few families. The alleys are

/35 cont./ interconnected. Without a guide one can get lost once inside a chai; turning right and left, one will be unable to find an exit. Chinese passing through a Miao chai often cannot find a single Miao, because they have gone into hiding in small alleys, barring the doors and refusing to come out. The Miao chais are not located along lines of communication but in the deep mountains and valleys accessible only by small paths. Although visible at a distance, they often cannot be reached. Without modern arms, they cannot be easily taken. For the last few hundred years continuous Miao unrest in western Hunan may be largely related to the fact that their chais were easy to defend and difficult to capture.

Houses. — Chinese houses within the Miao area generally are built with walls of sun-dried brick, and roofs covered with tiles. The Miao house is slightly different from the Chinese house. Chinese houses are generally of the three-room type, but Miao houses may consist of one, two, three, four, or five rooms. Wealthy families generally build five-room, two-story houses, with brick walls and tile roofs. Ordinary houses have three rooms with walls made of brick, stone in pieces, or sun-dried brick, and a roof covered with tiles or sometimes slates, pine bark, or thatch. (Illus. 14).[1] Pine trees are abundant in the Miao area /Illus. 11, 12 on pp. 36, 37/ /38/ /Illus. 13 appears here/ and timber is relatively plentiful, hence moderately well-to-do families build two-story houses. Pine bark when pressed flat with stone slabs is used by poor families as a substitute for roof tiles. Slates are abundant in the Miao frontier. The thicker ones are used for building walls and paving streets, the thin ones for roofing. The use of stone slates and bark for roofing is rarely seen in other parts, and it is a distinct feature of the Miao area.

The most common Miao house types are either the two-room type with three pillars and four frames or the three-room type with four pillars and four frames (Illus. 15).[2] In a three-room type house the middle room is the main room. On the rear wall is attached an ancestral tablet (in imitation of the

[text continues on p 63]

1 [see Cat. 116, p64- ANALYST]
2 [" " , p65- "]